

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04921 151444Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /099 W
-----039751 151451Z /53

R 151335Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5238
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4921

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO
SUBJECT: KENYAN DEFENSE ATTACHE ON MILITARY SITUATION

SUMMARY: KENYAN MILITARY ATTACHE, COL R. MUSONYE, ADVISES
THAT HARRARGHE REGION OF OGADEN NOW COMPLETELY IN SOMALI
HANDS WITH EXCEPTION OF DIRE DAWA-HARRAR-JIJIGA BELT. AT
SAME TIME MILITARY SITUATION HAS STABILIZED, EXCEPT IN
BALE AND SIDAMO REGIONS FURTHER TO SOUTH AND WEST. ETHIO-
PIAN SIDE REPORTEDLY REGROUPING AND CONSIDERING OFFENSIVE
INITIATIVES OF ITS OWN. ALTHOUGH KENYA AWARE THAT SOMALI
REGULARS EMPLOYED IN FIGHTING, ETHIOPIA HAS NOT YET SOUGHT
TO INVOKE BILATERAL DEFENSE TREATY TO OBTAIN KENYAN ASSIS-
TANCE. MUSONYE BELIEVES ACTION AROUND ASSAB WILL CHARAC-
TERIZE NEXT AND CRUCIAL PHASE OF ERITREAN CAMPAIGN.
END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 04921 151444Z

1. POLCOUNS HAS REVIEWED ETHIOPIAN MILITARY SITUATION
WITH KENYAN MILITARY ATTACHE COL MUSONYE. MUSONYE
SAID HE WAS UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT ONLY LIBERATION
FORCE GUERRILLAS WERE ENGAGED IN OGADEN. HE SAID THAT
SOMALI SUCCESS IN OCCUPYING EIGHTY PER CENT OF OGADEN
SIMPLY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT ASSISTANCE

OF SOMALI ARMY ELEMENTS, INCLUDING TANKS, APC'S, AND AIRCRAFT. KENYA HAD ALL THE PROOF IT NEEDED FROM ACTIONS LAST WEEK IN DOLO NEAR KENYAN BORDER, WHERE SOMALI AIR FORCE HAD BEEN HEAVILY ENGAGED IN STRAFING THREE ETHIOPIAN BATTALIONS DEFENDING TOWN. ETHIOPIAN UNITS HAD SINCE ABANDONED DOLO AND WERE WITHDRAWING NORTHWEST.

2. MUSONYE SAID THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE IN WAY OF BILATERAL DEFENSE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA SINCE HOSTILITIES HAD ESCALATED AND NO HINT FROM EPMG OF DESIRE TO INVOKE PROVISIONS OF TREATY IN CONNECTION WITH AGGRESSION BY SOMALIA.

3. MUSONYE AGREED WITH EMBASSY ASSESSMENT THAT ENTIRE HARRARGHE REGION SOUTH, EAST AND NORTH OF RELATIVELY NARROW BELT OF LAND CONNECTING DIRE DAWA, HARAR AND JIJIGA WAS IN SOMALI HANDS. HE SPOKE OF HEAVY CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES IN HOTLY CONTESTED BATTLES FOR MAJOR TOWNS OF GODE, KABRIDAHARE, WARDER AND DEGEHABUR, ALL OF WHICH ULTIMATELY HAD FALLEN TO SOMALIS. IN CASE OF MOST SMALLER OUTPOSTS AND BORDER TOWNS, EASTERN MILITARY COMMAND HAD ORDERED GARRISONS TO WITHDRAW NORTHWARD AFTER INITIAL SKIRMISHES, RATHER THAN BE SACRIFICED NEEDLESSLY. AT SAME TIME, MUSONYE HAD LEARNED FROM ETHIOPIAN CHIEF OF STAFF THAT SITUATION IN NORTH-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 04921 151444Z

ERN OGADEN WAS NOT RELATIVELY STABLE, ALTHOUGH SOMALIS WERE EXERTING PRESSURE AGAINST JIJIGA. CHIEF OF STAFF ALSO INDICATED THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES REGROUPING IN DIRE DAWA-HARAR AREA, THAT SOME 40,000 MILITIA HAD SO FAR BEEN SENT TO OGADEN, TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY, AND THAT ETHIOPIAN ARMY RECOGNIZED IMPERATIVENESS OF REGAINING INITIATIVE IN FIGHTING AS SOON AS IT APPEARED THAT OFFENSIVE MOVES HAD REASONABLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS.

4. MUSONYE CLAIMED THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS THAT SOVIET T-54 TANKS HAD ARRIVED IN ETHIOPIA IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE, IN ACTUALITY SHIPMENT HAD INVOLVED 62 ADDITIONAL T-34 TANKS, WHOSE MODIFIED GUN TURRETS HAD CAUSED CONFUSION IN IDENTIFICATION. HE CLAIMED THAT PAUCITY OF REPORTS ON AIR WAR DURING PAST TWO WEEKS WAS DIRECT RESULT OF ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE SUCCESS DURING EARLY FIGHTING, CAUSING SOMALIS TO BE EXTREMELY CHARY IN ENGAGING ITS AIRCRAFT, EXCEPT IN PLACES LIKE DOLO (ABOVE), WHERE LOSS OF GODE AIRSTRIP PRECLUDED TIMELY ETHIOPIAN REACTION.

5. TURNING TO ERITREA, MUSONYE SAID HE NOTED GROWING ETHIOPIAN CONCERN OVER SECURING ITS ECONOMIC LIFELINE FROM ASSAB TO ADDIS. MUSONYE WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE REPORTS HE HAD HEARD THAT 1500-MAN ERITREAN FORCE WAS EN-ROUTE FROM NORTH TO INVEST CITY OF ASSAB. IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS, AND WITH VIEW TO PREVENTING ASSAB ROAD FROM BEING INTERDICTED, EPMG WAS REINFORCING ASSAB WITH ARMORED AND AIRBORNE-TRAINED UNITS.

6. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY CANNOT VOUCH FOR COMPLETE ACCURACY OF MUSONYE'S INFORMATION, HE IS AMONG MORE CAREFUL OF RESIDENT DEFENSE ATTACHES, AND HE PROBABLY ENJOYS SLIGHTLY BETTER ACCESS TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY SOURCES BY VIRTUE OF BILATERAL TREATY RELATIONSHIP. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ADDIS 04921 151444Z

SINCE HIS INFORMATION ALSO TALLIES GENERALLY WITH REPORTS WE HAVE PICKED UP FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE BELIEVE IT REPRESENTS FAIR ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION. TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY ATTACHES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS04921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770293-1122
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770863/aaaacaxq.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7724f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1606413
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KENYAN DEFENSE ATTACHE ON MILITARY SITUATION SUMMARY: KENYAN MILITARY ATTACHE, COL R. MUSONYE, ADVISES THAT HARRARGHE REGION OF OGADEN NOW COMPLETELY IN
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO, (MUSONYE, R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7724f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009